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GROUND VIBRATIONS ARISING FROM USING TWO TYPES OF EXPLOSIVES - A COMPARATIVE STUDY

S.M.F. Hossaini¹ and G.C. Sen²

ABSTRACT: Results of an investigation into ground vibrations carried out in an open pit coal mine in New South Wales has been analysed. As this mine is located in a sensitive area in regard to potential damage from ground vibrations, severe restrictions were imposed on the blasting operations. In this study 44 sets of recorded experimental blast data have been analysed. Two valuable equations have evolved from the data when two types of explosives were used. A comparison between the effects of two explosive types, namely ANFO and slurry, on ground vibration is presented. It has been shown that the intensity of ground vibration is greater for slurry in short distances but becomes same in a specific longer distance. It was also found that in long distances the intensity of vibration is greater using ANFO than slurry.

Keywords: Blasting, ground vibration, coal mine, particle velocity, explosive type.

INTRODUCTION

The understanding of blast induced ground vibrations is of prime importance in controlling environmental problems. The explosive type is one of the key factors in determining the intensity of ground vibration. The quantification of the effect of this parameter on vibration has been discussed in detail elsewhere (Hossaini and Sen, 2004).

Cumnock South Open Cut Coal Mine is located approximately 35 km north of the town of Singleton in the Hunter Valley Coalfield in New South Wales, Australia (Figure 1). The mine site is adjacent to the Howick Open Cut Coal Mine, bounded by the New England Highway to the North, the Pacific Power Liddell to Tomago 330 kV transmission line to the South, the Coal and Allied overland conveyor to the East, and Pikes Gully Road to the West.

Due to the mine's close proximity to the Pacific power transmission lines and a number of road bridges (Figure 2), it was of utmost importance that the blast vibration level resulting from blasting be maintained at a level acceptable to the limitations imposed.

The maximum allowable peak particle velocity, which is defined as the vector sum of the three orthogonal velocity components (Konya, 1990), imposed at Cumnock South mine was 25 mm/s for the pikes Gully Bridge, C&A Bridge, any steel transmission towers of the 330 kV transmission line, and 50mm/s for the wooden transmission towers (Walker, 1996).

Experimental blasts using two types of explosive, namely ANFO and Slurry, were monitored in order to investigate and to implement the most reliable blasting method, which would not produce any environmental problems.

In this investigation, a series of monitored experimental data was analysed. The best fitting equation for vibration prediction was established for each explosive type, through which the maximum instantaneous charge can be calculated with very high levels of confidence. A comparison of the performance of these two types of explosives from the vibration point of view was also conducted.

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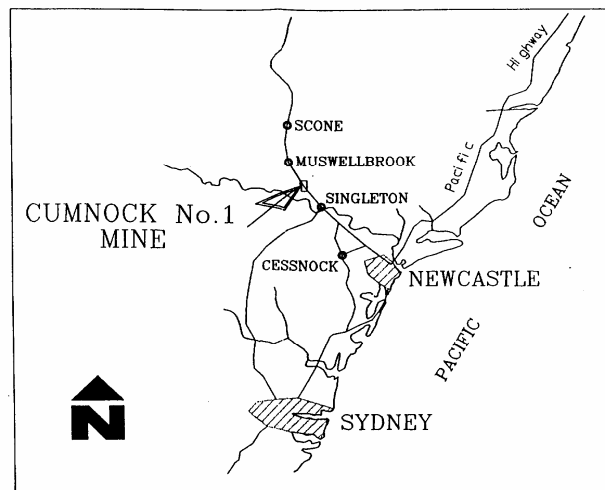


Fig. 1 - Location of Cumnock South Coal Mine in New South Wales.

GENERAL MINE DESCRIPTION

Cumnock coal is centred in the upper Hunter coalfield and forms part of the larger Permian aged coalfield known as the Sydney Basin. The Sydney Basin comprises sedimentary rocks such as conglomerate, sandstone and shale inter-bedded with many coal seams. Several clay stones of volcanic origin occur within the sequence and, due to their consistency, are used as major stratigraphic horizons. The coal resource is composed of nine seams that dip uniformly at approximately 4° to the South East. The mining activity commenced near the sub crop in the West and moved progressively down dip to the South East in 50 m wide strips (Robinson, Hagan and Tucker, 1995). The mine produced approximately 1.1 million tonnes per annum of coal and moved about 7 million cubic metres of overburden a year through a truck and shovel (hydraulic excavator) operation.

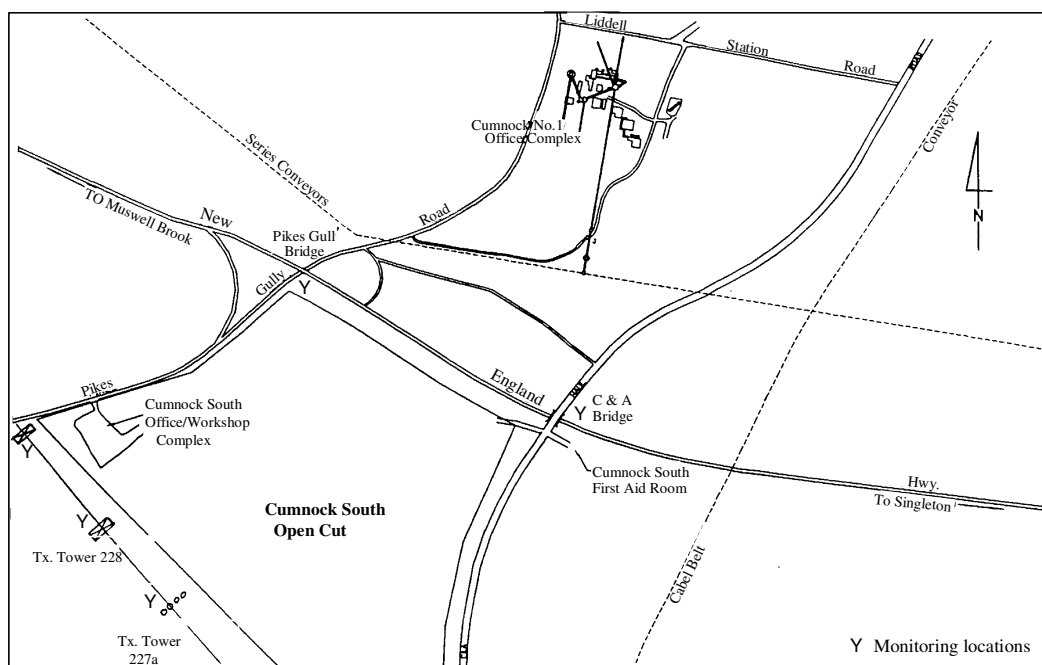


Fig. 2 - Monitoring locations

The blasting operation was conducted in the overburden. The overburden and inter-burden consisted mostly of siltstone and medium to thickly bedded sandstone. This stratification is free of significant joints or bedding planes and medium in strength. The average un-confined compressive strength was around 45 MPa.

As Cumnock South Open Cut Coal Mine is located in an area with many potential complaints about damage due to ground vibration, strict restrictions were imposed on the blasting operation. To implement a reliable shock reduction method, experimental blasts had been carried out in order to minimize the environmental problems (Hossaini and Sen, 2006).

The outline of drilling and blasting design at Cumnock South mine was as follows:

The bench heights were 10 m, 20 m or 28 m where in some cases two passes were required in order not to exceed the vibration limitation. The hole diameter used was 130 mm for the holes drilled for creating rock buffer and 187 mm for normal blasts. The initiation sequence was such that it progressed away from the sensitive area.

Blast vibrations were monitored using three Blastronic's Micro monitors at 5 locations shown in Figure 2. The monitoring points were positioned at sufficient distance from the structures to avoid undue vibration influence from the structures.

Cumnock South Cut operation was suspended in the late 90's. The data processed in this investigation relates to that era and not to the current project.

PEAK PARTICLE VELOCITY ANALYSIS

Data from 21 shots using ANFO (Table 1) and 23 shots using slurry explosive (Table 2) have been analyzed. When slurry was used, the explosive weight was converted into its ANFO equivalent, appearing in column 4 of Table 2 as (Maximum Instantaneous Charge) MICE (where subscript "e" stands for equivalent). As seen from Tables 1 and 2 the peak particle velocity (ppv) of ground vibration decreased rapidly as distance from the blast center to the survey station increased. The ppv decreased from an average of 37.9 mm/s at 42 m to 0.49 mm/s at 873 m for ANFO and from 32.07 mm/s at 93 m to 2.72 mm/s at 851 m for slurry.

Because the type of ground was assumed to be uniform in this study, it is reasonable to expect that any alteration in the ground vibration would be due to different explosive types as the only variable in this study.

The following scaled distance empirical equation originally proposed by US Bureau of Mines (Dowding, 1996) has been used for prediction of peak particle velocity:

$$v = k \left[\frac{D}{\sqrt{Q}} \right]^a \quad (1)$$

Where v is peak particle velocity (mm/s), D is distance (m), Q is the maximum instantaneous amount of explosive

charge (kg), $\frac{D}{\sqrt{Q}}$ is scaled distance (m/kg^{0.5}) and k and a are normally called site specific parameters.

Applying non-linear regression, to both groups of the data, the best values of parameters k and a are found for Equation (1), in each case, with excellent levels of correlation. The analysis was carried out by Microsoft Excel for XP Windows.

In the following sub-sections, the criterion is assessed against both groups of the data and the results are discussed individually for each case.

Table 1 - Ground vibration measurements in standard blasts using ANFO

Event No	Distance (m)	MIC(Q) (Kg)	PPV (mm/s)	Scaled Distance
1	747.00	218.90	1.90	50.49
2	733.00	280.31	1.50	43.78
3	700.00	228.80	1.60	46.28
4	873.00	40.00	0.49	138.03
5	196.00	241.21	26.40	12.62
6	207.00	233.17	19.72	13.56
7	629.00	74.33	0.80	72.96
8	640.00	218.90	1.80	43.26
9	660.00	280.31	3.10	39.42
10	620.00	228.80	2.30	40.99
11	42.00	30.00	39.09	7.67
12	70.00	80.00	48.66	7.83
13	81.00	110.00	46.08	7.72
14	153.00	271.61	39.90	9.28
15	691.00	241.21	2.93	44.49
16	42.00	25.00	36.85	8.40
17	670.00	233.17	3.74	43.88
18	66.00	75.35	27.60	7.60
19	216.00	224.65	13.00	14.41
20	238.00	272.87	13.50	14.41
21	225.00	146.94	10.80	18.56

Table 2 - Ground vibration measurements in standard blasts using slurry

Event No	Distance (m)	MIC(Q) (Kg)	MICe (kg)	PPV (mm/s)	Scaled Distance
1	437.00	537.19	639.25	12.70	18.85
2	355.00	463.68	551.78	9.70	16.49
3	547.00	209.16	248.90	2.90	37.82
4	820.00	44.76	53.27	0.60	122.56
5	517.00	360.74	429.28	4.00	27.22
6	666.00	247.17	294.14	1.30	42.36
7	247.00	338.39	402.68	26.00	13.43
8	198.00	300.34	357.41	35.30	11.43
9	403.00	655.36	779.88	9.50	15.74
10	703.00	94.59	112.56	0.90	72.28
11	562.00	247.17	294.14	1.82	35.75
12	851.00	395.48	470.62	2.72	42.79
13	485.00	295.34	351.45	3.89	28.22
14	378.00	661.74	787.48	12.00	14.69
15	255.00	303.45	361.11	36.20	14.64
16	515.00	209.16	248.90	2.70	35.61
17	554.00	44.76	53.27	1.10	82.80
18	288.00	360.74	429.28	21.60	15.16
19	651.00	247.17	294.14	1.30	41.41
20	580.00	94.59	112.56	1.10	59.64
21	120.00	182.91	217.66	44.40	8.87
22	93.00	63.42	75.47	32.07	11.68
23	259.00	376.96	448.58	13.40	13.34

Vibration due to ANFO

Equation (1), was applied to 21 pairs of the data relating to the shots where ANFO was used. The best fit structure of the equation has been established between peak particle velocities and scaled distances with best possible values of coefficients of correlation (R) as follows.

$$v = 1269.9 \left[\frac{D}{\sqrt{Q}} \right]^{-1.6628} \quad (R=0.9924) \quad (2)$$

Figure 3 represents the established equation along with the data.

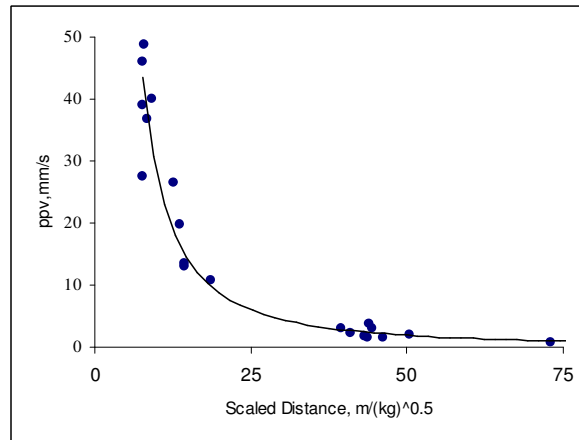


Fig. 3 - PPV versus scaled distance for blasts using ANFO

Vibration due to Slurry

Equation (1) was applied to 23 sets of the data relating to the shots where slurry explosive was used. Non-linear regression was carried out the same way as for ANFO. The following best fit forms of the equations has been established between peak particle velocities and scaled distances:

$$v = 2239.3 \left[\frac{D}{\sqrt{Q}} \right]^{-1.838} \quad (R=0.959) \quad (3)$$

Figure 4 shows the established equation along with the data.

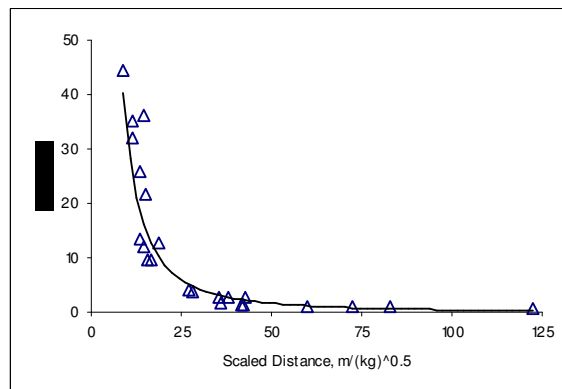


Fig. 4 - PPV versus scaled distance for blasts using slurry explosive

Attenuation of vibration

Attenuation trend of the peak particle velocities are presented in Figures 5 and 6 for the two types of explosives. Two best fitting equations describing the attenuation due to distance have been established and these are as follows:

$$\text{For ANFO; } v = 51.538e^{-0.0049D} \quad (R=0.962) \quad (4)$$

$$\text{For Slurry; } v = 86.119e^{-0.006D} \quad (R=0.914) \quad (5)$$

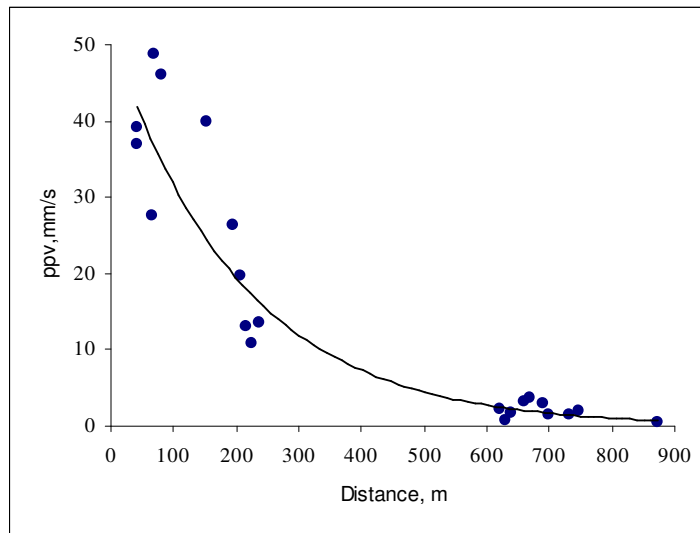


Fig. 5 - Attenuation trend of vibration for ANFO

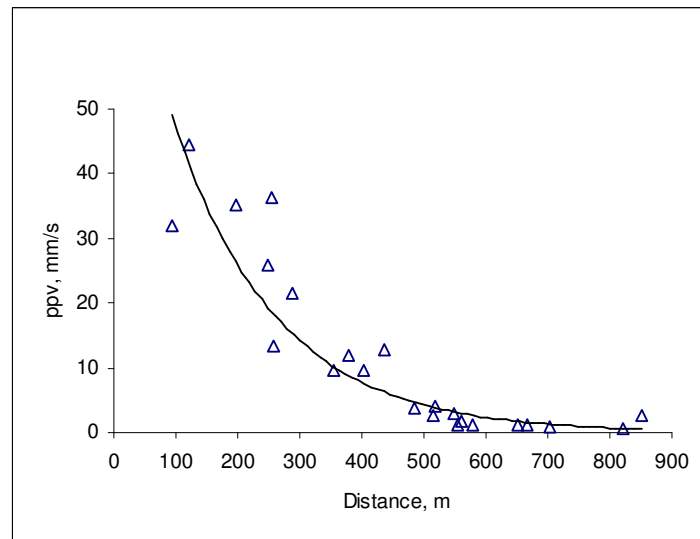


Fig. 6 - Attenuation trend of vibration for Slurry

COMPARISON OF GROUND VIBRATIONS VALUES

Figure 7 compares the magnitudes of ground vibrations for slurry and ANFO. In Figure 8 the rates of vibrations for these two types of explosives are plotted against distances. The values of ppv shown in this figure have been back calculated from equations 4 and 5 which were obtained for attenuations of vibrations as shown in Figures 5 and 6.

As seen in Figure 8, the intensity of vibration is much greater for slurry explosive. As the monitoring distance increases, both types of explosives (viz. ANFO and slurry) become similar and are virtually the same at long distances. In this study this phenomenon was evident at around 460 meters. This is because with the increase in distance the intensity of vibration is attenuated and dies down in far places. When very long distances are concerned, regardless of the type of explosive the ground vibration becomes weaker and weaker, and is finally untraceable.

An interesting point has emerged: in distances over 500 meters the intensity of vibration due to ANFO is greater than that of slurry. This can be interpreted as the effect of frequency. The waves with lower frequencies normally last longer and are more effective over long distances. Since the monitoring of vibration eaves did not record the frequencies in that period this hypothesis cannot be substantiated with any degree of certainty. However, it is likely that the waves produced by ANFO are mostly of lower frequencies than those produced by slurry. This can be considered as the reason for the higher ratio of ANFO to slurry proportion of vibration intensity in long distances.

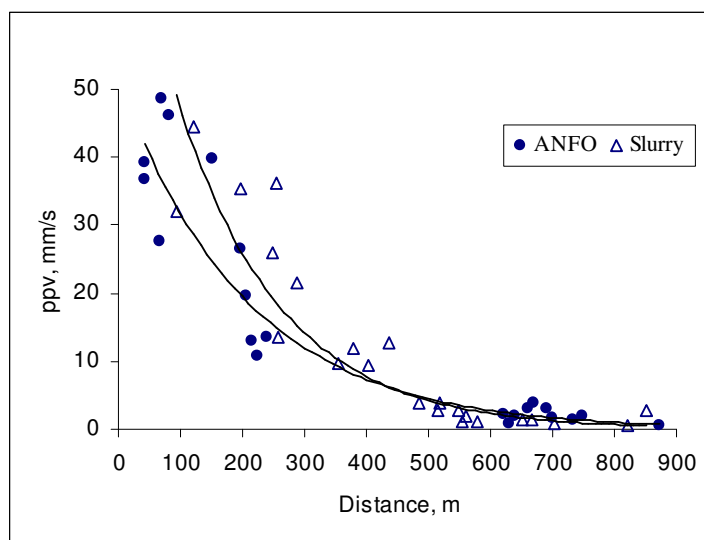


Fig. 7- Comparison of vibration intensity for ANFO and Slurry

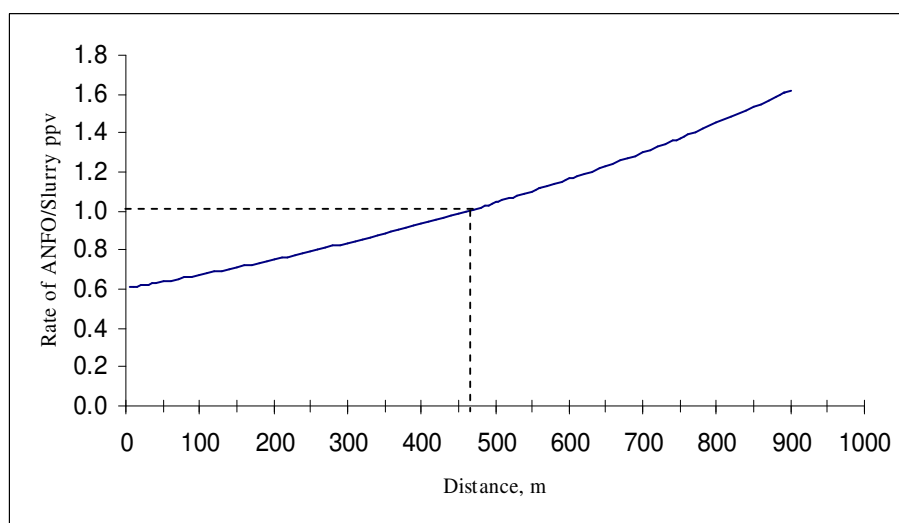


Fig. 8 - Rate of vibrations of ANFO to Slurry for various distances

CONCLUSIONS

The results of this investigation can be summarised as follows:

- The explosive type may significantly affect the intensity of ground vibration.
- In short distances, the intensity of vibration produced by slurry is much greater than that produced by ANFO.
- As the distance increases, the intensity of vibration grows closer for both types of explosives.
- At a specific distance both explosives produced similar vibration values.
- Beyond a specific distance the vibration becomes higher for ANFO than for slurry.
- The role of frequency is likely to effect the variation of vibration intensity at long distances.

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	5/90		*	Third International Symposium on Rock Fragmentation by Blasting, Brisbane, August 1990
	6/90		*	Sir Edgeworth David Memorial Oration, May 1990
	7/90		*	Mine Geologists' Conference, Mount Isa, October 1990
1991	1/91		*	Fourth Mill Operators' Conference, Burnie Tas, March 1991
	2/91		*	World Gold '91, Cairns Qld, April 1991
	3/91		*	Mining Industry Optimisation Conference, Sydney, June 1991
	4/91		*	PNG Geology, Exploration and Mining Conference, Rabaul, June 1991
	5/91		*	Qld Coal Symposium, Brisbane, August 1991
	6/91		*	Reliability Production and Control in Coal Mines, Wollongong, September 1991
	7/91		*	Fifth AusIMM Extractive Metallurgy Conference, Perth, October 1991

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1992	1/92	*	Enviromine Australia, Sydney NSW, March 1992
	2/92		The AusIMM Annual Conference, 'The State-of-the-Art - A Product of 100 Years of Learning', Broken Hill NSW, May 1992
	3/92		'Energy, Economics and Environment' Gippsland Basin Symposium, Melbourne, June 1992
	4/92		Arnold Black Mineral Heritage Oration
	5/92		The Man from ASARCO: a life and times of Julius Kruttschnitt
	6/92		5 th Underground Operators' Conference, Ballarat, July 1992
	7/92	*	11th International Conference on Ground Control in Mining, Wollongong, July 1992
	8/92	*	Third Large Open Pit Mining Conference, Mackay, August 1992
	9/92	*	Extractive Metallurgy of Gold and Base Metals Conference, Kalgoorlie, October 1992
	10/92	*	Sampling Practices in the Minerals Industry, Mount Isa, November 1992
	11/92	*	Rehabilitate Victoria, Latrobe Valley, November 1992
1993	1/93		Mining People - A Century
	2/93		The AusIMM Centenary Conference, Adelaide, March 1993
	3/93		XVIII International Mineral Processing Congress, Sydney, May 1993
	4/93	*	Narrow Vein Mining Seminar, Bendigo, June 1993
	5/93	*	International Mining Geology Conference, Kalgoorlie, July 1993
	6/93		VIII Australian Tunnelling Conference, Sydney, August 1993
	7/93	*	World Zinc '93 - International Symposium, Hobart, October 1993
1994	1/94		1994 AusIMM Student Conference, Brisbane, April 1994
	2/94	*	PNG Geology, Exploration and Mining Conference, Lae, PNG, June 1994
	3/94		No Two The Same by Bert Mason
	4/94		Sixth Extractive Metallurgy Conference, Brisbane July 1994
	5/94	*	1994 AusIMM Annual Conference, Darwin, August 1994
	6/94	*	4 th Large Open Pit Mining Conference, Perth, September 1994
	7/94	*	Recent Trends in Heap Leaching, Bendigo, September 1994
	8/94	*	Maintenance in the Mining and Metallurgical Industries, Wollongong, October 1994
	9/94	*	Fifth Mill Operators' Conference, Roxby Downs, October 1994
	10/94		Mineral Valuation Methodologies 1994, Sydney, October 1994
	11/94		Victorian Mining Week Conference, Melbourne, October 1994
1995	1/95		1995 AusIMM Annual Conference, Newcastle, March 1995
	2/95		Sir Maurice Mawby Memorial Oration
	3/95		World's Best Practice in Mining and Processing Conference, Sydney, May 1995
	4/95		APCOM XXV 1995 Conference, Brisbane, July 1995
	5/95		Mineral Valuation Methodologies 1994, Sydney, October 1994 (revised)
	6/95	*	EXPLO 95 Conference, Brisbane, September 1995
	7/95		Underground Operators' Conference, Kalgoorlie, November 1995
	8/95	*	Young Professionals' Conference, Mt Isa, October 1995
	9/95	*	PACRIM '95 Congress, Auckland, New Zealand, November 1995
	10/95	*	Ethics, Liability and the Technical Expert, Sydney, December 1995

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1996	1/96	*	1996 AusIMM Annual Conference, Perth, March 1996
	1a/96	*	1996 AusIMM Annual Conference Supplementary Volume, Perth, March 1996
	2/96	*	Ethics, Liability and the Technical Expert, Sydney, March 1996
	3/96	*	Entrepreneurs and Partners, Sydney, July 1996
	4/96	*	Contract Operators' Conference, Kalgoorlie, October 1996
	5/96		Asia/Pacific Mining Communications Summit, Singapore, November 1996 - Withdrawn
1997	6/96	*	Nickel '96, Kalgoorlie, November 1996
	1/97		1997 AusIMM Annual Conference, Ballarat, March 1997
	2/97	*	World Gold '97 Conference, Singapore, September 1997
	3/97		Sixth Mill Operators' Conference, Madang, PNG, October 1997
	4/97		Gem 97, Madang, PNG, October 1997
	5/97	*	Contract Operators' Conference, Brisbane, Qld, October 1997
1998	6/97		Third International Mining Geology Conference, Launceston, Tas, November 1997
	7/97		Mindev 97 - The International Conference on Mine Project Development, Sydney, November 1997
	8/97		1997 AusIMM Travelling Technology Forum, Singleton, NSW, March 1997
	1/98	*	MINEFILL '98 - The Sixth International Symposium on Mining with Backfill, Brisbane, Qld, April 1998
	2/98	*	AusIMM'98 - The Mining Cycle, Mount Isa, Qld, April 1998
	3/98	*	Seventh Underground Operators' Conference, Townsville, Qld, June/July 1998
1999	4/98		Mine to Mill Conference, Brisbane, Qld, October 1998
	5/98		Third Regional APCOM - Computer Applications in the Minerals Industries International Symposium, Kalgoorlie, WA, December 1998
	1/99		10th Australian Tunnelling Conference, Melbourne, Vic, March 1999
	1a/99		10th Australian Tunnelling Conference Keynote Addresses and Asia-Pacific Forum, Melbourne, Vic, March 1999
	2/99		Students and Young Professionals Conference, Perth, WA, July 1999 (N/A)
	3/99		ICARISM '99 Conference, Perth, WA, September 1999
2000	4/99		PACRIM '99 Congress, Bali, October 1999
	5/99		EXPLO '99 Conference, Kalgoorlie, WA, November 1999
	1/2000		Southern Africa - Australia Mineral Sector Synergies Symposium, Canberra, ACT, March 2000
	2/2000		After 2000 - The Future of Mining, Sydney, NSW, April 2000
	3/2000		4th International Mining Geology Conference, Coolangub, Qld, May 2000
	4/2000		Young Leaders 2000, Sydney, NSW, July 2000
2001	5/2000		MINPREX 2000, Melbourne, Vic, September 2000
	6/2000		Seventh Mill Operators' Conference, Kalgoorlie, WA, October 2000
	7/2000		MassMin 2000, Brisbane, Qld, October - November 2000
	1/2001		Strategic Mine Planning 2001, Perth, WA, March 2001
	2/2001		AusIMM Youth Congress 2001, Brisbane, Qld, May 2001
	3/2001		International Heavy Minerals Conference, Fremantle, WA, June 2001
	4/2001		EXPLO 2001, Hunter Valley, NSW, October 2001
	5/2001		Mineral Asset Valuation Issues 2001, Sydney, NSW, October 2001

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2002	1/2002	Young Leaders 2002, Kalgoorlie, WA, March 2002
	2/2002	Metallurgical Plant Design and Operating Strategies, Sydney, NSW, April 2002
	3/2002	CMMI Congress, Cairns, Qld, May 2002
	4/2002	Green Processing Conference, Cairns, Qld, May 2002
	5/2002	Eighth Underground Operators' Conference, Townsville, Qld, July 2002
	6/2002	AusIMM 2002 Conference, 150 Years of Mining, Auckland, New Zealand, September 2002
	7/2002	Iron Ore Conference, Perth, WA, September 2002
	8/2002	Value Tracking Symposium, Brisbane, Qld, October 2002
2003	1/2003	Twelfth International Symposium on Mine Planning and Equipment Selection, Kalgoorlie, WA, April 2003
	2/2003	Young Leaders 2003, Brisbane, Qld, April 2003
	3/2003	Sixth International Conference Acid Rock Drainage, Cairns, Qld, July 2003
	4/2003	Eighth Mill Operators' Conference, Townsville, Qld, July 2003
	5/2003	Mining Risk Management Conference, Sydney, NSW, September 2003
	6/2003	Water in Mining 2003, Brisbane, Qld, October 2003
	7/2003	Fifth Large Open Pit Conference, Kalgoorlie, WA, November 2003
	8/2003	Fifth International Mining Geology Conference, Bendigo, Vic, November 2003
2004	1/2004	New Leaders 2004, Ballarat, Vic, April 2004
	2/2004	Second International Green Processing Conference, Fremantle, WA, May 2004
	3/2004	EXPLO 2004, Perth, WA, July 2004
	4/2004	Metallurgical Plant Design and Operating Strategies, Perth, WA, September 2004
	5/2004	PACRIM 2004 Congress, Adelaide, SA, September 2004
	6/2004	Bac-Min Conference, Bendigo, Vic, November 2004
	7/2004	Orebody Modelling and Strategic Mine Planning, Perth, WA, November 2004
	8/2004	Fifth International Mining Geology Conference, Bendigo, Vic, November 2003
2005	1/2005	Ninth Underground Operators' Conference, Perth, WA, March 2005
	2/2005	Coal2005 Conference, Brisbane, Qld, April 2005
	3/2005	New Leaders 2005, Brisbane, Qld, April 2005
	4/2005	Second World Conference on Sampling and Blending, Sunshine Coast, Qld, May 2005
	5/2005	Centenary of Flotation Symposium, Brisbane, Qld, June 2005
	6/2005	Eighth International Mine Ventilation Congress, Brisbane, Qld, July 2005
	7/2005	Hoist and Haul Conference, Perth, WA, September 2005
	8/2005	Iron Ore Conference, Fremantle, WA, September 2005
	9/2005	First Extractive Metallurgy Operators' Conference, Brisbane, Qld, November 2005

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